

REMARKS

Claims 11, 13, 14, 16, and 19-27 are now pending in the application. Claims 24 and 27 have been amended to correct minor grammatical errors. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments pursuant to MPEP 1207 since the amendments only require a cursory review by the Examiner.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 11, 13, 14, 16, and 19-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nuss (U.S. Pat. No. 4869419). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This rejection has been appealed and is addressed in the accompanying Appeal Brief.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance for reasons set forth in the accompanying Appeal Brief. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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